

Modeling to Learn

Test. Don't guess.

Session 2: Introducing Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention



@LZPhD

Lindsey Zimmerman, PhD

Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

National Center for PTSD, Dissemination & Training Division



Tom Rust, PhD

Office of Healthcare Transformation

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Created by

The logo for the VA Team PSD. It features the letters "VA" in large blue font, followed by "Team" and "PSD" in smaller blue font. A red curved arrow points from the word "Created by" down to the "VA" part of the logo.

VA Team
PSD
1

Team



Participatory System Dynamics

mtl.how/team

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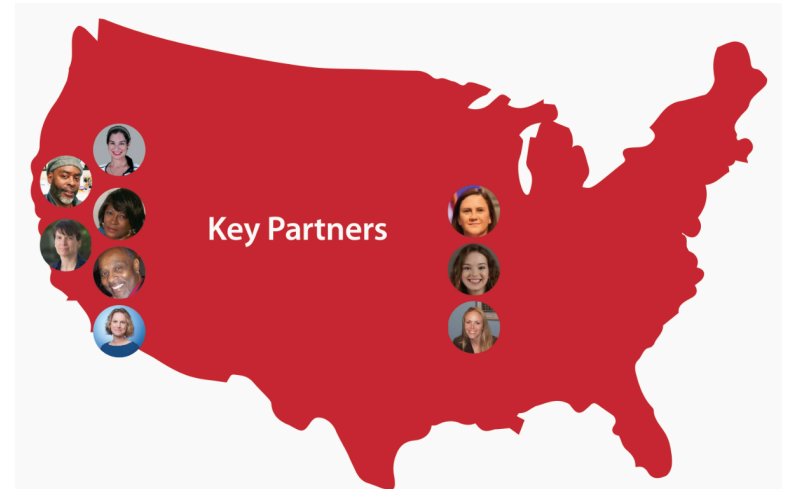
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Team

Participatory System Dynamics

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This is session 2 of a four part series.

Date	Title	Focus
May 2, 2019 12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern	Introducing <i>Modeling to Learn</i> Helping Teams Find Local Improvements to Meet Veterans' Needs	 mtl.how
May 9, 2019 12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern	Introducing Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention	 
May 16, 2019 12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern	Comparing Measurement Based Care and Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention	 
May 22, 2019 12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern	Putting it Together: Combining Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention	

Modeling to Learn



Test. Don't guess.

Modeling to Learn



Test. Don't guess.

Virtual Facilitation

Transparent Local
Data

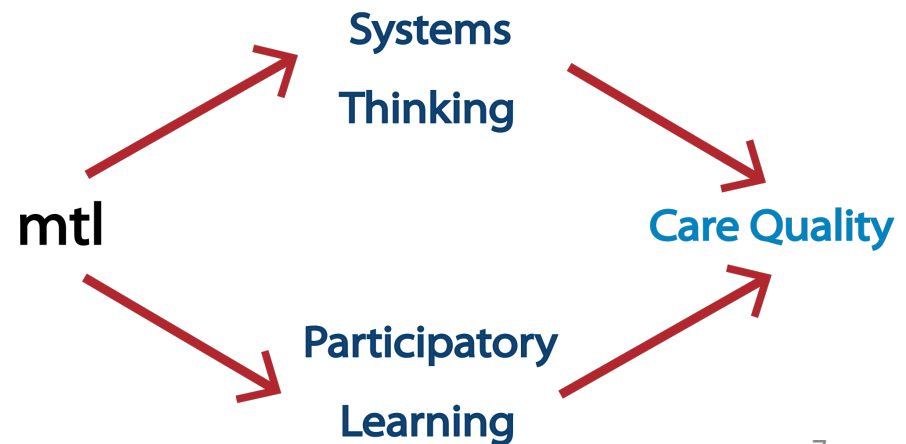
Real-time
Simulation

1. Equitable access to resources.
2. Mutual learning.
3. Shared decision-making.


Poll 1: Which is likely most useful for team learning?

Please select all that apply.

- A. Facilitation
- B. Team data
- C. Simulation
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above



This is session 2 of a four part series.

Date	Title	Focus
May 9, 2019 12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern	Introducing Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention	

Session 2 Systems Story Learning Objectives


1. Describe the systems story of this team's suicide prevention priority.
2. Test out your thinking about causes of this team's challenges using the model diagram.
3. Apply clinical expertise to develop a question for team learning using simulation.

[Registration](#)

<https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-upcoming.cfm>



This is session 2 of a four part series.

Date	Title	Focus
May 9, 2019 12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern	Introducing Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention	 mtl session 7 base case

Session 2 Base Case Learning Objectives

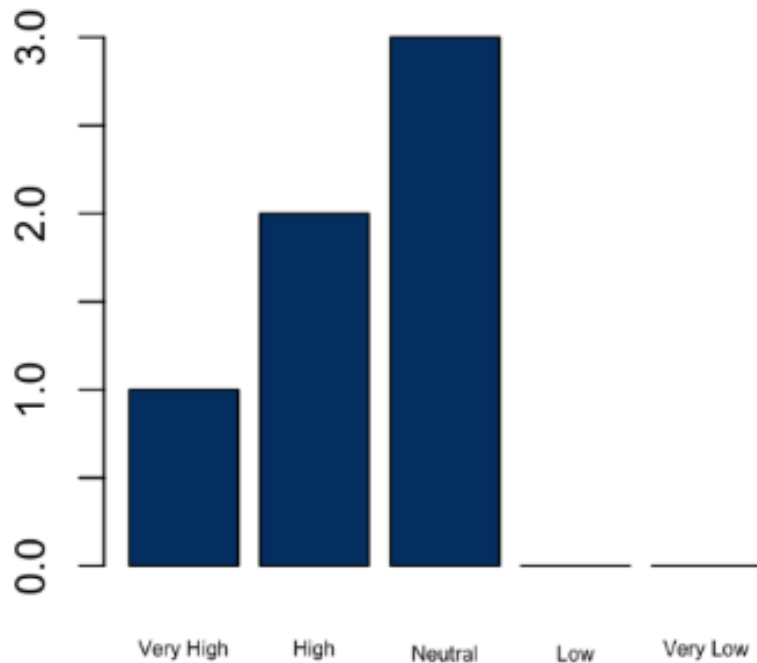
4. Describe the base case of no new decisions in this team.
5. Test out your thinking about what is likely to cause oscillation in team trends.
6. Apply systems thinking to develop a hypothesis about this team's suicide prevention priority.



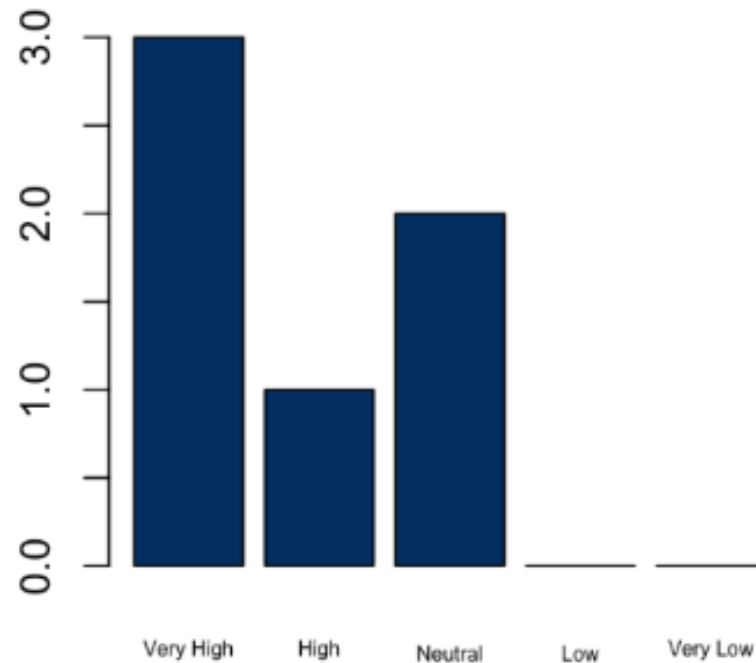
[Registration](#)

<https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-upcoming.cfm>

Suicide Prevention - How to manage high risk patients.



Stepped Care - How to decide when to step patients up to specialty care.




Session

Join Current Session 

Suicide Prevention -- Week 104
583ge_wl_bhip2_2019_04_14.xlsx

 **Play**

Start a New Session

- Care Coordination 
- Medication Management 
- Psychotherapy 
- Aggregate 
- Suicide Prevention 

This team has is managing care across general and specialty mental health settings.



Lindsey Zimmerman



HOME



PLAY



CHAT



HELP



LOGOFF



Lindsey
Zimmerman



Outputs and Text



Experiments

Select Previous
Experiment to Set
Experimental Values
to a Former State



Select Experiment

Go

Team Data Table

Measurement Based Care

	GMH	PC/PCMHI	SMH
New Care Episode Start Rate (mean)(pts/wk)	8.54	0.67	0.17
New Patient Wait Time (median) (wks)	2	5	4
High Risk Patient Flag Rates (mean)(pts/wk)	0.06	0.04	0.06
Time to Unflag High Risk patients (median)(wks)	24.14	43.57	22
Engagement Time before Ending (median)(wks)	81.43	204.86	68.64
Symptom Proportions (High Symptom %)	0.11	0.69	0.15
Time to Improve (wks)	43	32	28

Stepped Care

This team has is managing care across general and specialty mental health settings.

Stepped Care			
	Time from Flag to Step up/down	Engagement Time before Step up/down (median)(wks)	Wait Times (median)(wks)
GMH to PC/PCMHI	N/A	58.43	34.86
GMH to SMH	N/A	113	45.57
GMH to Residential	12	43	N/A
PC/PCMHI to SMH	N/A	43	21.43
PC/PCMHI to GMH	85.71	32	17.14
PC/PCMHI to Residential	34	64	N/A
SMH to GMH	0	33	71.29
SMH to PC/PCMHI	N/A	132	42.14
SMH to Residential	64.29	67	N/A



Team
data
estimation.
Click on the
"i"

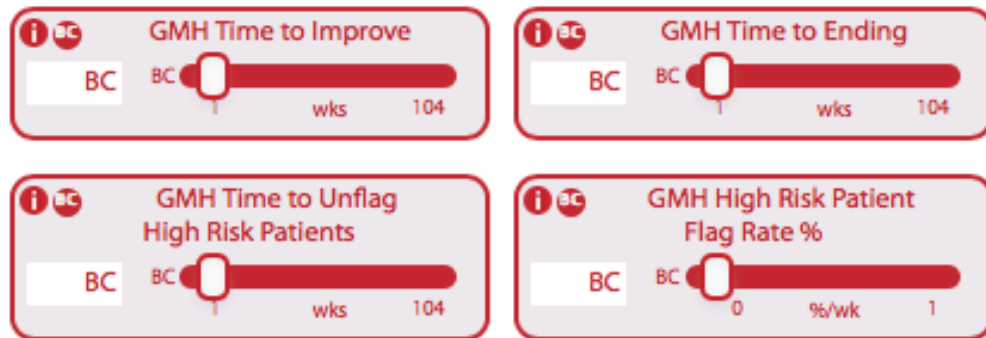


Team Data

This model uses team data from the VA's Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW). It is generated by staff using VA enterprise systems, such as by a provider selecting CPT codes in CPRS. To limit data to the team, a dynamic query using clinics/grids is built from user selections. To estimate patient engagement patterns, the query generates a patient cohort (all patients who met with the team 6 to 18 months ago) and pulls all associated visits with the team. The model then uses the cohort data to make calculations.

Table Variable	Data and Estimation Description
New Care Episode Start Rate (pts/wk)	An estimate of the new care episode start rate, comprising patients starting a new episode of care after receiving no care in that setting within the last nine months. (pts/wk)
New Patient Wait Time (median) (wks)	An estimate of wait time for new patients with this team, capturing only the time gap between their first visit being scheduled and that visit being completed.
High Risk Patients Flag Rates (pts/wk)	An estimate of the rate at which patients are assigned a high risk for suicide flag while in treatment in each location. (pts/wk)
Time to Unflag High Risk Patients (wks)	Once a patient is assigned the high risk for suicide flag, this is the median number of weeks before the flag is removed. Or, if the patient already had the flag when they entered the location, it is the median number of weeks from when they first engaged with the team to the flag removal. (wks)

Team
challenges
related to
suicide
prevention.



Team Question: How can we get our high symptom patients to the right care at the right time?



Table



Save



Copy



Export

Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention

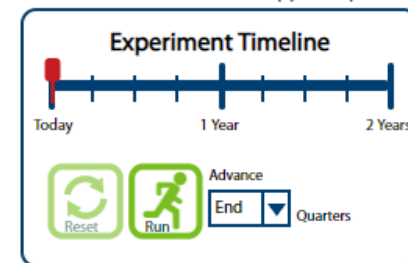
This model shows the effects of measurement based stepped care on patients' symptoms and risk. It allows you to explore the impacts of implementing measurement based care to reduce delays in detecting patients at high risk for suicide, and to improve the quality of care by making better team decisions about when to step patients up to a higher level of care, or step them down to a lower level of care. It is also possible to experiment with team decisions related to new patient wait-times and access, the use of community care, and the impacts of provider overwork and burnout on the quality of care.



Our Question

Briefly describe what your team wants to learn from this experiment.

How can we get our high symptom patients into the right care at the right time? Specifically, stepping more of our high symptom patients up to PTSD clinical team and Addiction Treatment Services team?



Our Hypothesis

Outline the systems story your team believes will cause the outcomes your team expects to observe.



Our Findings

Describe your team's findings, insights and conclusions from this experiment.



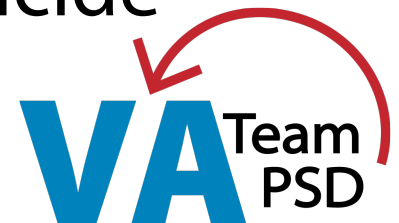
Our Decisions

Based on what was learned in this experiment, what changes is the team ready to make in their practice?

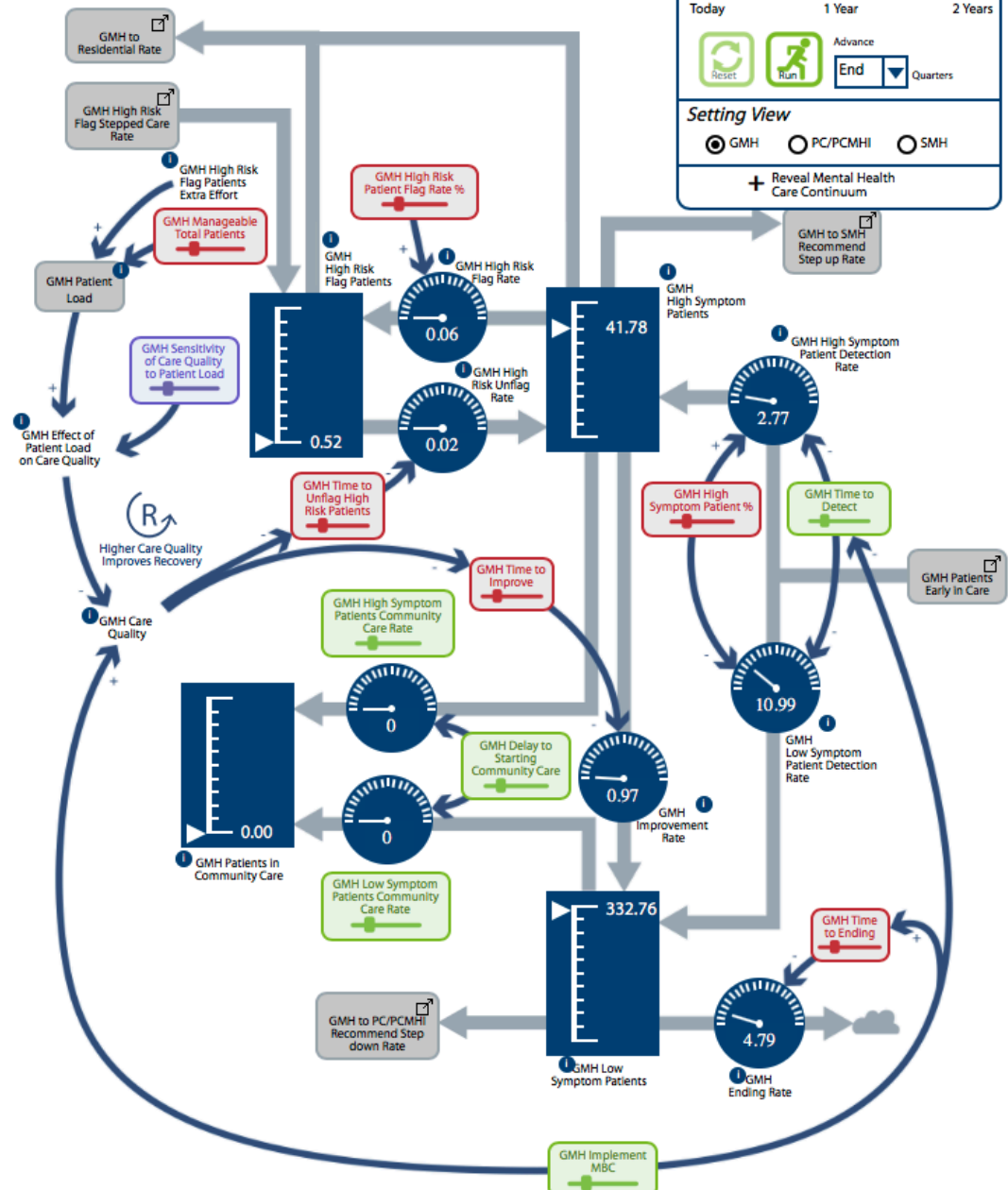
Poll 2: We have struggled with...

Please select all that apply.

- A. Patients waiting to start care
- B. Detecting changes in patients' symptoms
- C. Wait times to transfer patients' care across settings
- D. Managing our patient load
- E. Care for patients at high risk for suicide



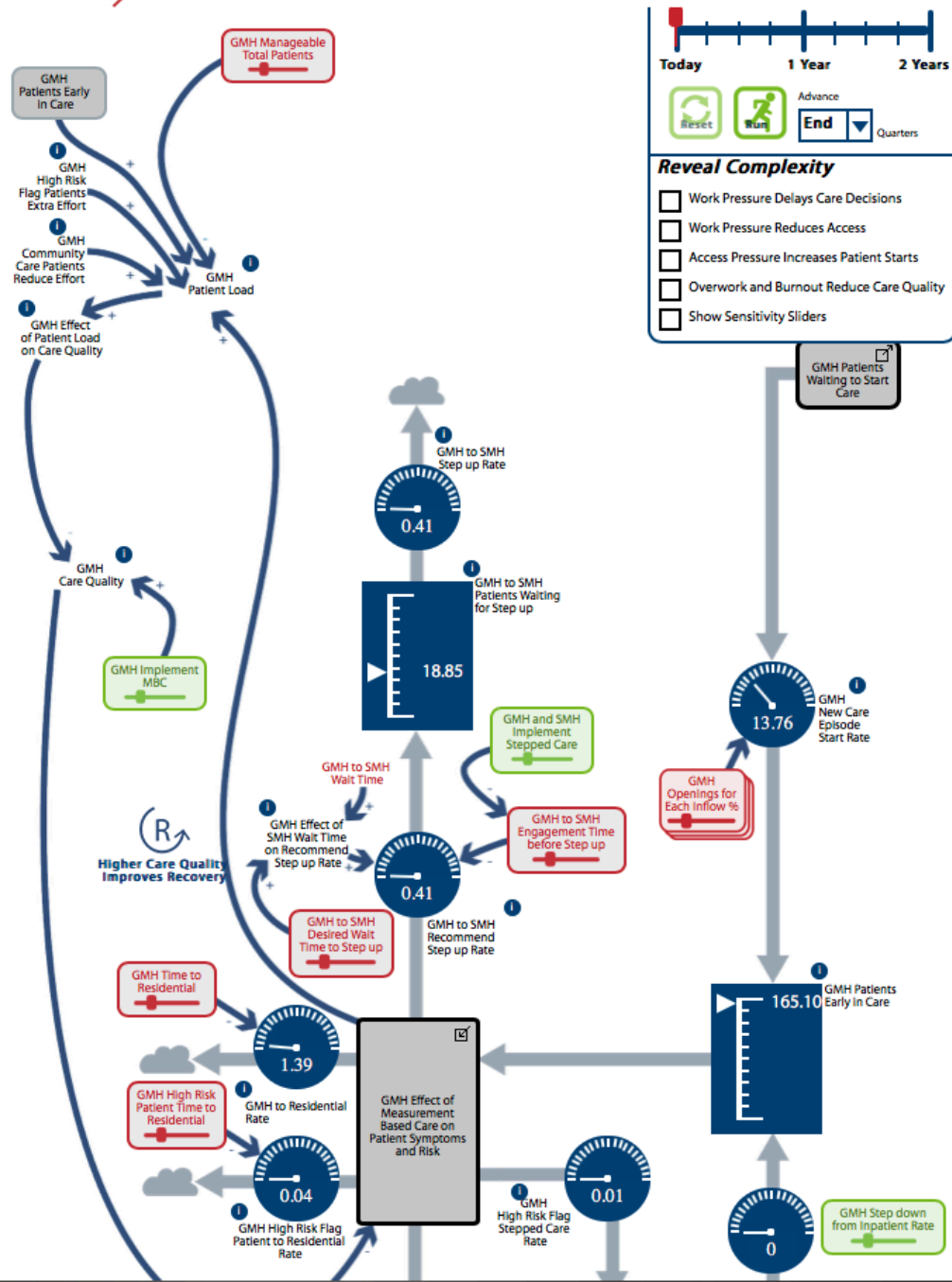
Effects of Measurement Based Stepped Care on Patients' Symptoms and Risk



Systems
Story:
Higher care
quality
improves
recovery
(zoomed in)

General Mental Health Stepped Care:

Higher care quality improves recovery (zoomed out)



MTL resources help teams
look back two years
and look ahead two years.

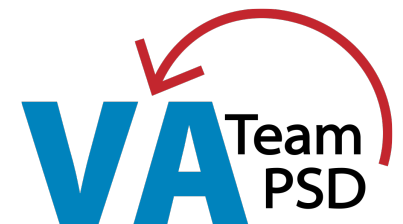


Poll 3:

If we make no new decisions, then...

Please select all that apply.

- A. Care quality will stay the same
- B. Care quality will get worse
- C. Care quality will get better
- D. Some care will get better and some worse
- E. I don't know



Hypothesis: If we make no new decisions in our team, then...

1. we won't get our patients to specialty care they need
2. our patient load will increase
3. we won't help as many patients toward recovery.



Table



Save



Copy



Export

Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention

This model shows the effects of measurement based stepped care on patients' symptoms and risk. It allows you to explore the impacts of implementing measurement based care to reduce delays in detecting patients at high risk for suicide, and to improve the quality of care by making better team decisions about when to step patients up to a higher level of care, or step them down to a lower level of care. It is also possible to experiment with team decisions related to new patient wait-times and access, the use of community care, and the impacts of provider overwork and burnout on the quality of care.

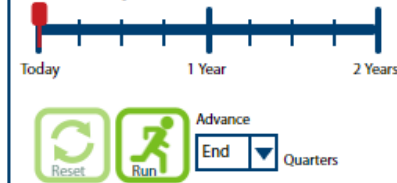


Our Question

Briefly describe what your team wants to learn from this experiment.

How can we get our high symptom patients into the right care at the right time? Specifically, stepping more of our high symptom patients up to PTSD clinical team and Addiction Treatment Services team?

Experiment Timeline



Our Hypothesis

Outline the systems story your team believes will cause the outcomes your team expects to observe.

If we make no new decisions in our team, then we won't be able to get our patients in the specialty programs they need, our patient load will increase, and we won't move as many patients into recovery as we would like.



Our Findings

Describe your team's findings, insights and conclusions from this experiment.

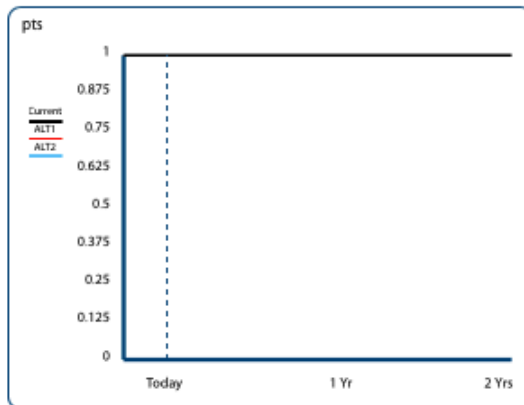


Our Decisions

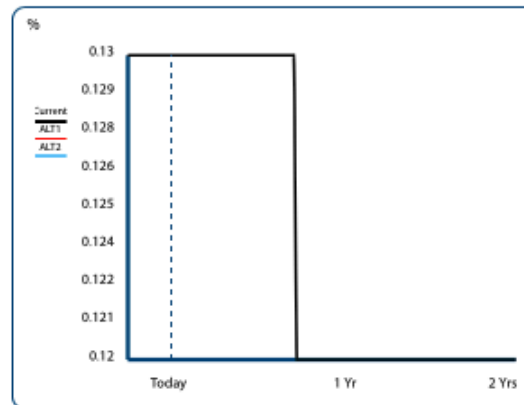
Based on what was learned in this experiment, what changes is the team ready to make in their practice?

What if we made no new decisions?

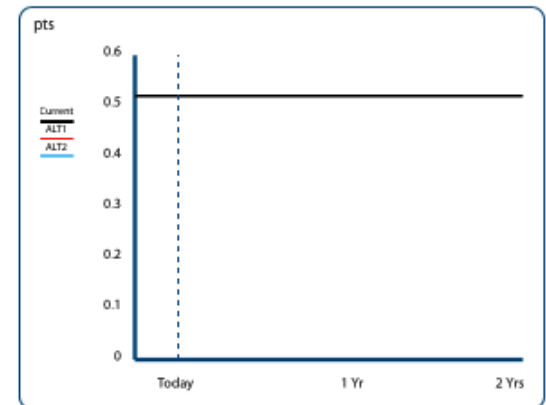
Basecase



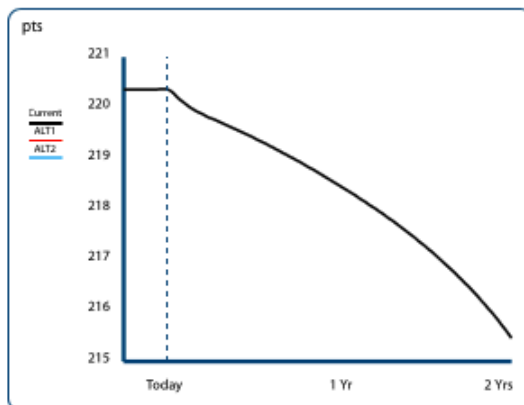
▼ GMH Patient Load



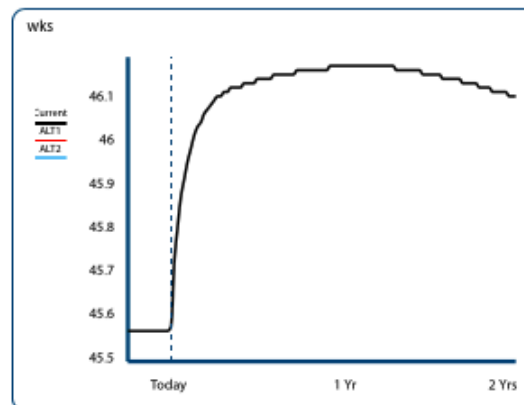
▼ GMH Ratio of High to Low Symptom Patients



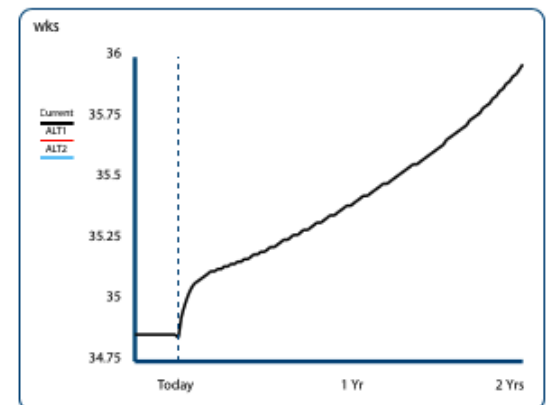
▼ GMH High Risk Flag Patients



▼ GMH Patients Waiting to Start



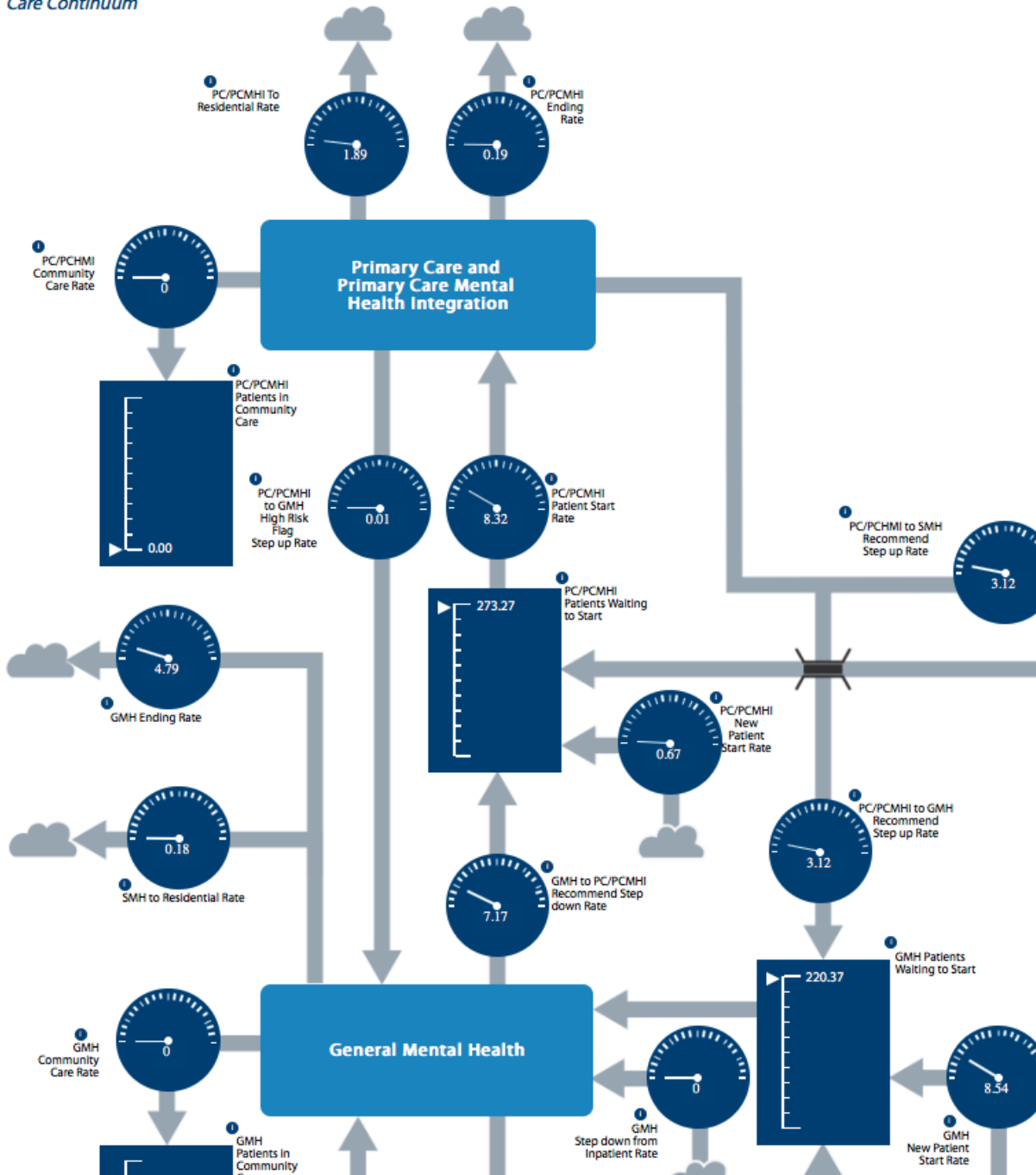
▼ GMH to SMH Wait Time for Step up



▼ GMH to PC/PCMH Wait Time to Step down

Mental Health Care Continuum (zoomed out again)

Mental Health Care Continuum



Findings: If we make no new decisions, then...

- 1. care quality doesn't improve
- 2. wait times to transition patients to specialty care stay the same
- 3. we won't help as many patients toward recovery.

Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention

This model shows the effects of measurement based stepped care on patients' symptoms and risk. It allows you to explore the impacts of implementing measurement based care to reduce delays in detecting patients at high risk for suicide, and to improve the quality of care by making better team decisions about when to step patients up to a higher level of care, or step them down to a lower level of care. It is also possible to experiment with team decisions related to new patient wait-times and access, the use of community care, and the impacts of provider overwork and burnout on the quality of care.

Our Question

Briefly describe what your team wants to learn from this experiment.

How can we get our high symptom patients into the right care at the right time? Specifically, stepping more of our high symptom patients up to PTSD clinical team and Addiction Treatment Services team?

Experiment Timeline

Reset Run Advance End Quarters

Our Hypothesis

Outline the systems story your team believes will cause the outcomes your team expects to observe.

If we make no new decisions in our team, then we won't be able to get our patients in the specialty programs they need, our patient load will increase, and we won't move as many patients into recovery as we would like.

Our Findings

Describe your team's findings, insights and conclusions from this experiment.

Care quality does not improve (wait time to step up changes by ~1%). However, if our manageable patient load stays the same over the next two years as the past two years, we shouldn't expect things to get worse, either.

Our Decisions

Based on what was learned in this experiment, what changes is the team ready to make in their practice?

Decisions:

We will experiemnt to see if implementing measurement based care produces a virtuous cycle of moving more of our veterans into recovery.

Outputs and Text

583ge_wl_bhip_2019_04_14.xlsx

Table

Save

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Export

Measurement Based Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention

This model shows the effects of measurement based stepped care on patients' symptoms and risk. It allows you to explore the impacts of implementing measurement based care to reduce delays in detecting patients at high risk for suicide, and to improve the quality of care by making better team decisions about when to step patients up to a higher level of care, or step them down to a lower level of care. It is also possible to experiment with team decisions related to new patient wait-times and access, the use of community care, and the impacts of provider overwork and burnout on the quality of care.

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Care quality does not improve (wait time to step up changes by ~1%). However, if our manageable patient load stays the same over the next two years as the past two years, we shouldn't expect things to get worse, either.

Our Decisions

Based on what was learned in this experiment, what changes is the team ready to make in their practice?

We will next experiment to see if implementing Measurement Based Care will produce a virtuous cycle of moving more of our Veterans into recovery.

Experiment Timeline

Today

1 Year

2 Years

Reset

Run

Advance

End

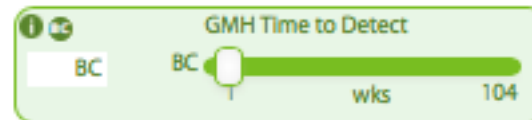
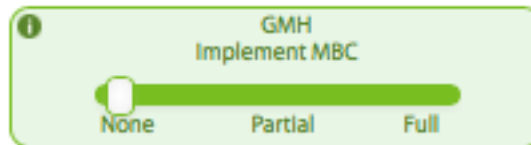
Quarters

25

Team challenges related to care quality.

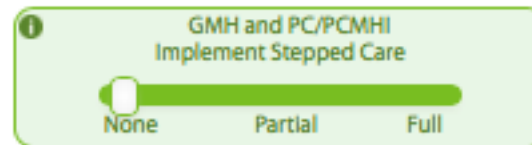
1. What if we implemented measurement-based care in our team?

GMH Measurement Based Care



2. What if we implemented stepped care between our clinic and PC/PCMHI?

General Mental Health Stepped Care



Next week for session 3:

Date	Title	Focus
May 16, 2019 12noon Pacific/3PM Eastern	Comparing Measurement Based Care and Stepped Care for Suicide Prevention	<div>mtl session 8 dynamic hypothesis →</div> <div>mtl session 9 compare alternatives →</div>

We compare two questions for our teams:

1. What if we implemented measurement-based care in our team?
2. What if we implemented stepped care between our clinic and PC/PCMHI?

[Registration](#)

<https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-upcoming.cfm>



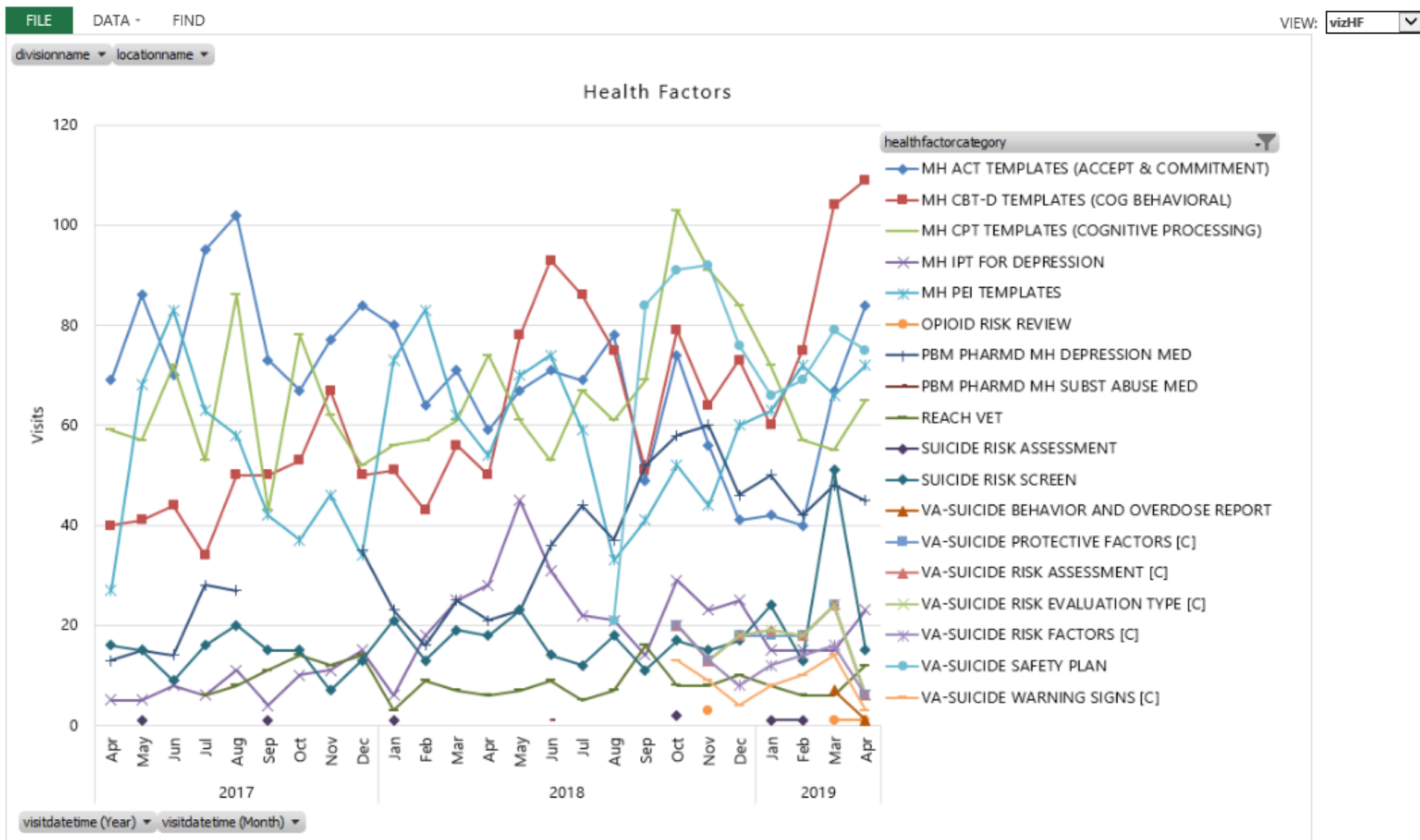
Modeling to Learn

You can review data at within VA at mtl.how/data.

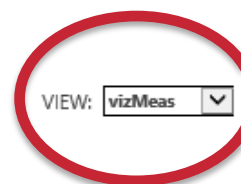
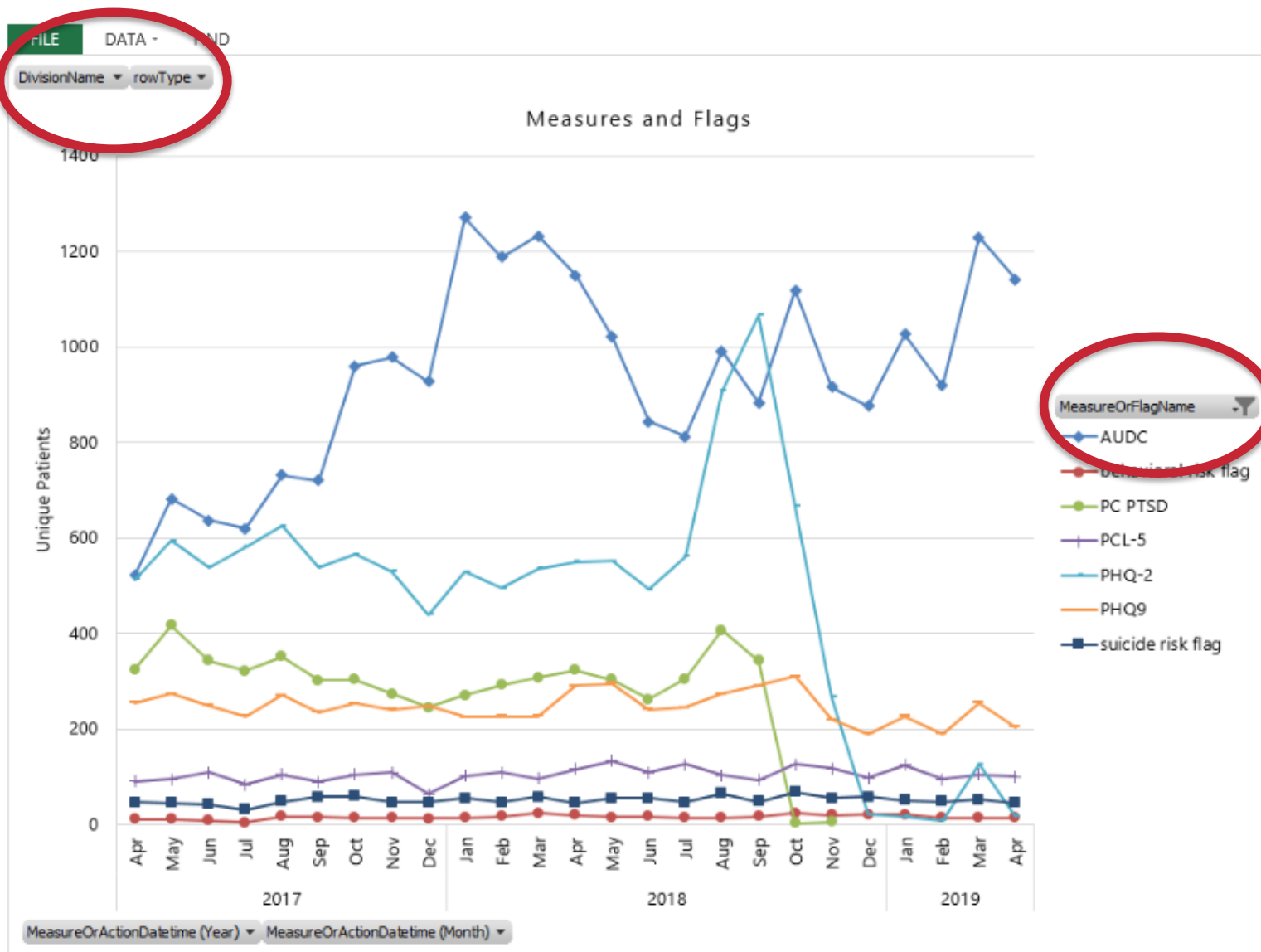
mtl

mtl.how/data

You can review data at within VA at mtl.how/data.



You can review data at within VA at mtl.how/data.



You can review *Modeling to Learn* session guides at mtl.how

mtl

mtl.how

Session guides,
links, and
cheatsheets.

mtl1.7_models	Update README.md
mtl1.8_models	Update README.md
session01	Update README.md
session02	Update mtl_session02_see.md
session03	Update mtl_session03_see.md
session04	Add files via upload
session05	Update mtl_session05_see.md
session06	Update mtl_session06_see.md
session07	Update mtl_session07_see.md
session08	Update mtl_session08_see.md
session09	Update mtl_session09_see.md
session10	Update mtl_session10_see.md
session11	Update mtl_session11_see.md
session12	Add files via upload
LICENSE	Initial commit
README.md	Update README.md

You can self-register and use the demonstration simulation to explore the suicide prevention module.

mtl
→
mtl.how/demo

- Self-register
Course Code: cybersem
- Once registered go to:
mtl.how/demo_login



The screenshot shows the login interface for 'Modeling to Learn'. At the top, the text 'Modeling to Learn' is in blue, followed by 'Test. Don't guess.' in black. Below this is a dashed line. The 'Username' field is a text input with a yellow dashed border and a small user icon on the right. The 'Password' field is a standard text input. A green 'Login' button is on the right. A red warning message states: 'Internet Explorer is not supported by Modeling To Learn For best results, please use Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or Safari'. At the bottom right, it says 'Version 1.8 (DEMO)'.

Help is available in top navigation bar.



Lindsey Zimmerman



HOME



PLAY



CHAT










HELP



LOGOFF



Lindsey
Zimmerman

Model Diagram	Experiment Timeline	Outputs	Experiment
<p>The blue header at the top shows the module and data file chosen.</p> <p>The rates (circles) and stocks (rectangles) update dynamically with changes in the experiment variables.</p>  <p>Throughout the model diagram, there are "i" icons to explain how the variable is calculated.</p> 	<p>Use reveal complexities to look at balancing and reinforcing feedback systems stories.</p>  <p>In the systems stories, there are two kinds of arrows. Plus signs mean trends move in the same direction. Minus signs mean trends move in the opposite direction.</p> 	<p>View trends over time for ≤ 6 variables</p> <p>Text or Q/H/F/D Enter Question, Hypothesis, Findings, and Decisions text for each experiment.</p>  <p>Expanded Outputs View Q/H/F/D Text and Results Dashboard at once</p>  <p>Results Dashboard View trends over time for ≤ 6 variables. Compare ≤ 2 experiments against current run.</p>	<p>Select Experiment Select previous experiments to cue up experiment values and q/h/f/d text from previous experiments.</p> <p>Team Data Table Shows initial starting values of experimental variables based on team data.</p> <p>Experiment Adjust experiment sliders to test different values in the sim by dragging the slider.</p> 

Start a new Suicide Prevention Session.





1. Review the team data and “i” information.
2. Zoom in/out to review system stories and complexity reveals for each care setting.
3. Run, examine the output, and save a base case of no new decisions.

mtl

mtl.how/demo

*Once registered go to:
mtl.how/demo_login




 Save Experiment 

MTL Module: Suicide Prevention

Last Save Date / Time: -

Sim Parameters File: 583ge_wl_bhip2_2019_04_14.xlsx

Team: Lindsey Zimmerman

 Save  Copy  Export

It may be helpful to write down which experimental variables you changed, and the values you applied before saving. Then name your experiment by choosing variable descriptions from the drop-down menus below. If a selection is not supported by the model, it will be grayed out. Multiple variable, cohort and service descriptions may be added to the end of the experiment name by clicking the "ADD" button. When finished, click on the "Save" icon above.

Experiment Name

Variable

Number

▼ Base Case



Select Variable

Base Case

Decimal

ADD

ADD

 Save & Reset  Discard



Five ways to improve *MTL* usefulness.

Email: **mtl.info@va.gov**

Subject line: **Learning**

1. *MTL* Live Team/Clinic

2. Pilot Review EES materials (e.g., Video, Guides)

Design

3. Data User Interface (mtl.how/data)

4. Simulation User Interface (mtl.how/demo)

Research

5. Advisory Board and other opportunities

MTL Resources and Help



Session guides, links, and cheatsheets.

Self-registration for simulation demo. *Course code: cybersem*



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National Center for PTSD, Dissemination & Training Division



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Office of Healthcare Transformation

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<https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-upcoming.cfm>



Session 2 Bibliography

- **Barlas, Y.** (1996). Formal aspects of model validity and validation in system dynamics. *System Dynamics Review*, 12(3), 183–210.
- **Hovmand, P. S.** (2014). *Community Based System Dynamics*. Retrieved from <http://link.springer.com/10.1007/978-1-4614-8763-0>
- **Sterman, J. D.** (2006). Learning from evidence in a complex world. *American Journal of Public Health*, 96(3), 505–514.
- **Zimmerman, L., Lounsbury, D. W., Rosen, C. S., Kimerling, R., Trafton, J. A., & Lindley, S. E.** (2016). Participatory System Dynamics Modeling: Increasing Stakeholder Engagement and Precision to Improve Implementation Planning in Systems. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*, 43(6), 834–849. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-016-0754-1>

Additional Suicide Prevention Resources

https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/resources.asp

Twenty helpful resources are available at the link for:

- Veterans and their Loved Ones
- Community Providers and Community Members
- VA Providers and Teams